

Sri Lanka's southern charm

Make memories you'll treasure forever at the paradisiacal Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort

From the moment you arrive at this sprawling resort on the south coast of Sri Lanka, you'll get the sense that you're somewhere special. From the authentic welcome ceremony where the sound of beating drums and a chorus of traditional Sri Lankan song pierces the otherwise silent air, to the freshly plucked king coconuts handed to you as you're welcomed inside, Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort is truly mesmerising. Perched on a cliff top, it's a postcard-perfect paradise where swaying coconut palms totter over beautifully landscaped gardens and an ocean of vivid blue sprays white waves against a rugged rock face. Set on a secluded stretch of beach on the southernmost coast of Sri Lanka, this 152-room resort in Tangalle is wild beauty unrivalled.

And when such beauty surrounds you, it makes sense to keep up the standard by booking into one of the pool villas. Go for one by the river to enjoy a private infinity pool overlooking landscaped gardens with a rushing stream running just a few metres from your door. It's the perfect place to spot some of the wondrous wildlife that also call the resort home: there's nothing quite like waking in the morning to be greeted by a friendly family of monkeys frolicking on your front lawn. Indoors, the villas have butler pantries, humidors and humongous bathrooms and anything else that you could possibly desire is taken care of by your dedicated villa butler who is always no more than a phone call away.

When it comes to dining, the iconic Verele is a must. Huge basket-shaped pods house diners in this Teppanyaki restaurant where succulent meat and sizzling seafood comes as standard. Italian delights come courtesy of Il Mare while Journeys offers an extensive breakfast buffet, with a plethora of healthy options.

Indulge with a visit to the spa where ancient therapy-based treatments are the perfect antidote for Sri Lanka's heat-searing days. Afterwards, get a sense of your surroundings at the high tea ceremony feasting on single estate brews from the highlands served with generous accompaniments of scones, cakes and artisanal jams, with that glorious view as a backdrop. For those seeking a taste of adventure, the surf in this region is some of the best in the country – take a lesson with SurfTropic and you'll soon be coasting the whitewash. For something slightly more Zen, a sunrise yoga session in the lush gardens accompanied by the sound of rolling waves is an obvious choice and just another memory waiting to be made in this summertime paradise.

Book for 7 nights and you'll enjoy complimentary half board for the whole family. Find out more at tangalle.anantara.com

